HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4657, by Representatives Buys, Tarleton, Fey, Lytton, Van Werven, and Frame

- WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington state House of 1 2 Representatives to honor the successes and sacrifices of commercial
- 3 fishers; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet begins 5 leaving in March and May, and the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at Fisherman's Terminal in Ballard; and 6
- 7 WHEREAS, This is the 88th year the Ballard First Lutheran Church 8 has held the blessing and the 20th year Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg 9 has offered the blessing; and
- 10 WHEREAS, This is the 41st year the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at the Port of Bellingham, and will be presented at Zuanich 11 12 Point Park in Squalicum Harbor on May 7, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.; and
- 13 WHEREAS, This is the 33rd year the Blessing of the Fleet will occur in Blaine Harbor, and will be presented at Blaine Boating 14 15 Center on May 8, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.; and
- 16 WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet is one of the world's largest distant water fleets; and 17
- 18 WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly 19 employs thousands of people and is one of the largest industries in 20 Washington state; and
- 21 WHEREAS, The annual commercial fishing harvest is vital to the 22 growth and stability of the Washington state economy; and

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1	WHEREAS, The life of a fisher is fraught with danger and hardship
2	most people will never face, strength and courage are requirements
3	for anyone who chooses to work on the sea, braving the elements in
4	order to harvest the ocean's resources; and
5	WHEREAS, The men and women who work on fishing boats, often in
6	dangerous circumstances, deserve our admiration, thanks, and, when
7	tragedy strikes, our remembrance; and
8	WHEREAS, Too often, the brave men and women of our fishing fleet
9	lose their lives, a tragedy that not only impacts the close-knit
10	community of fishing families in our region, but also our entire

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives extend its condolences to the families and friends of all our fishers who have lost their lives at sea, wish the entire commercial fishing fleet a safe and prosperous season, and express its hope that all of our fishers will return home safely to their families, friends, and communities.

 state;

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution 4657 adopted by the House of Representatives February 18, 2016

Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk

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